

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: ENERGY: BELGIAN AMBASSADORS TO OPEC COUNTRIES TO MEET
IN BRUSSELS

1. (UNCLASSIFIED) THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKES-
MEN ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 19 THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADORS TO OPEC
COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN
BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF
THE RECENT OPEC MEETING WHICH RESULTED IN TWO-TIER PRICE
INCREASES. ON JANUARY 24 THE MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. THE FOLLOWING DAY IT WILL
BE CONDUCTED BY NEW FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KNOOPS. AND ON
JANUARY 26 THE AMBASSADORS WILL MEET WITH THE INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES. KNOOPS WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE
AFTER THE JANUARY 25 SESSION.

2. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) AIME LEONARD OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S ENERGY OFFICE WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ARRANGMENTS FOR
THESE MEETINGS, TELLS US THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR
THIS SERIES OF SESSIONS CAME FOR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
KNOOPS, SHIRFTED LAST DECEMBER FROM STATE SECRETARY
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FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN A MINOR GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE.

HE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NEW PARI DES REFORMES ET
DE LA LIBERTE WALLON (PRLW -- SEE 76 BRUSSELS 11549).

KNOOPS WISHES TO REINVIGORATE THE GOVERNMENT ROLE IN
EXPANDING BELGIAN TRADE WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAY EXIST.

HE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSION WITH INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PETROFINA AS WELL AS OTHER

BELGIAN FIRMS WITH EXPORT POSSIBILITIES TO OPEC COUNTRIES AND
BELGIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER NON-
BELGIAN MULTINATIONALS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

3. LEONARD SAID THAT THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC PORTION OF
THE MEETING (JANUARY 24 UNDER FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE)
IS CONCEIVED AS A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION RATHER THAN DISCUSSION
OF A PREDETERMINED FIRM AGENDA. TOPICS CERTAIN TO BE DISCUSSED,
HOWEVER, INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF THE SPLIT DECISION
ON PRICE INCREASES, LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASES IN AID BY OPEC
COUNTRIES TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED OR MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED
COUNTRIES, AND PROSPECTS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE (CIEC).
NO SPECIFIC BELGIAN INITIATIVES WILL BE ON THE TABLE FOR
APPROVAL, BUT LEONARD THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT SOME
"INTERESTING" RESULTS MIGHT OCCUR. RENNER

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Message Attributes

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